

## OIC prepares bid to end Gulf war

BAHRAIN (R) — An Islamic mission trying to end the war between Iran and Iraq is consulting among its members on a fresh bid to end the 28-month-old conflict, the official Saudi Press Agency reported Sunday. It quoted Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Secretary-General Habib Chatti as telling the Saudi newspaper Al Riyad: "The committee is determined to go ahead with its peace efforts whatever the results." Previous mediation efforts by the OIC, the United Nations and the Non-Aligned Movement have all failed to end the Gulf war, which has cost thousands of lives and billions of dollars. The last OIC effort in October ended in failure because Mr. Chatti said shortly afterwards, it coincided with a new Iranian offensive.

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# Jordan recovering from blizzard

By Aifah Kaloti and Lamis Andoni  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan worked hard Sunday to recover from the aftermath of a severe blizzard which hit the country during the past two days.

Reports from various parts of the country spoke of accidents, traffic jams, poor visibility and thousands of people stranded as the meteorological department gave an optimistic forecast for today.

The department said Sunday that the amount of snow fell reached a maximum of one metre high.

Dr. Ali Abanda, director of the department told the Jordanian News Agency (Petra), that Monday's weather will improve to be partly cloudy accompanied by the fall of slight rains in the eastern and southern parts of the country.

Fog will be formed in the hilly areas and wind speed will gradually decrease, Dr. Abanda said.

He added that the low depression, which affected Jordan during the past two days, moved to the east accompanied by very high atmospheric pressure.

Throughout the past 48 hours, the Departments of Public Security, Civil Defence, Public Works, the Amman Municipality and the Armed Forces cooperated together to clear blocked roads.

The cabinet reviewed at its regular session Sunday, arrangements taken by government departments to deal with the situation resulting from the prevailing

weather conditions.

Petra said the cabinet expressed satisfaction with measures taken by these departments to handle accidents, clear roads and restore normal life.

Civil Defence officials were quoted as saying Sunday that almost all roads in the country have been cleared up from snow and their department's rescue teams were still working to open the remaining roads in cooperation with armed forces and public security.

During the snowstorm, the officials said, no major accidents occurred but warned people against touching electric wires damaged by stormy winds.

In addition to clearing main (as well as the side) roads, the Public Security cleared culverts to prevent accumulation of water. Petra said.

Minister of Public Works Awni Al Masri Sunday inspected all roads surrounding the capital, and personally supervised maintenance work along the Amman-Salt road.

Petra said Mr. Masri ensured that the ministry's maintenance workers were clearing roads from snow and opening them for normal traffic.



The blizzard, which hit Jordan on Saturday and Sunday, closed many roads to traffic in and outside Amman. The Amman-Salt road (above) was completely blocked on Saturday and many cars and people were stranded but it was reopened to traffic on Sunday (photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

still on alert.

Col. Ma'ani added that the committee decided to take all necessary precautions in case the Zarqa River flooded its banks as a result of melting of the snow. The committee called on the inhabitants of the river banks to take their own precautions as well.

Mr. Rabah Al Akhras, director of Zarqa's electricity company, said that there was no major electricity power failure in the city except for few separate cases which were promptly handled.

In Ma'an in the south it was reported that three persons were killed Sunday when a heavy lorry with a Kuwaiti licence plate hit their car which was parked at the side of the road.

Witnesses said that the accident was due to poor visibility on the road.

### Impact on agriculture

But the snowfall will have a positive impact on agriculture according to Ministry of Agriculture Under-secretary Salem Al Lawzi.

"The snowfall is a good indicator of an increase in agricultural output, for the snow increases reserves of underground water especially dam waters," Dr. Lawzi told the Jordan Times.

The snowfall also indicates an early spring which will solve the problems of cattle breeders in finding pastures and water for their cattle, especially in the eastern areas, he said.

Due to the prevailing weather conditions, however, the Education Ministry issued a statement on Sunday announcing the closure of schools on Monday and Tuesday.

Dr. Moheiden Touk, Jean of students affairs at the University of Jordan said that the university will be closed on Monday.

Amman airport reported some delays in a number of flights Saturday and Sunday. It was reported earlier that two airliners from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were diverted to Damascus and Cyprus on Saturday due to poor visibility.

## Lebanon, Israel to hold 3rd round of talks today

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese officials hold their third round of talks Monday with Israel on the withdrawal of its invasion force amid reports of continuing shelling between rival Lebanese factions in the northern city of Tripoli.

State-run Beirut Radio said Saturday's heavy clashes between pro-Syrian and anti-Syrian militia groups in Tripoli subsided Sunday after sniping and occasional artillery fire.

Unconfirmed reports said some 30 people were killed in Tripoli, Lebanon's second biggest city which is under the overall control of Syrian peacekeeping troops.

President Amin Gemayel was conferring with Lebanon's negotiating team Sunday night to give final instructions for Monday's talks in the seaside town of

## Iraq: Arabs do not want 'destruction' of Israel

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Sunday released the text of a conversation between President Saddam Hussein and a U.S. congressman in which the Iraqi leader was quoted as accepting—apparently for the first time—Israel's need for security, in the existence of an independent Palestinian state.

The discussion between President Hussein and representative Stephen Solarz, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, took place more than four months ago, on Aug. 25. It was not known why the government decided to publish it now.

During the conversation, President Hussein said he believed in the "existence of an independent Palestinian state accepted by the Palestinians", and added that "it is also necessary to have a state of security for the Israelis".

He told Mr. Solarz: "No single Arab official includes in his policy

now the so-called destruction of Israel or wiping it out of existence, but there is not one Arab who believes in coexistence with an aggressive and expansionist entity."

Iraq has long been seen as one of Israel's most implacable enemies, and diplomats could not recall Iraqi leaders making any previous utterances of the kind made public Sunday.

The discussion took place about two weeks before an Arab summit in Morocco implicitly accepted Israel by calling in a Middle East peace plan for United Nations Security Council guarantees of peace for all states in the region.

The Iraqi leader warned the U.S. not to ask the Palestinians to recognise Israel before Israel recognises Palestinian rights.

President Hussein said the U.S. would "commit a grave mistake if it forced the Arabs to recognise

Israel in the prevailing circumstances, when the Arabs are weak...the U.S. has to seek a solution which does not make the Arabs feel the solution is being imposed on them."

President Hussein revealed that before the Iran-Iraq war broke out in September 1980, Iraqi leaders had discussed the restoration of diplomatic relations with Washington, broken off during the 1967 Middle East war.

"The idea was frozen because we did not want our people to think that we have restored relations because we needed the U.S.," he said.

Iraq felt unsafe about U.S. policy in the region, the president added. "But at the same time we find it in our interest to have an American presence if another foreign big power exists in the region."

## Egypt says relation with Soviet Union improving

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hassan Ali was quoted Sunday as saying his country's relations with the Soviet Union were improving, but refused to say when full diplomatic ties between Cairo and Moscow could be restored.

Mr. Ali, in an interview with Cairo's mass-circulation newspaper Al Akbar, said: "Trade and economic ties between Moscow and Cairo are proceeding normally while cultural and technical cooperation is increasing."

Egypt, under the late President Anwar Sadat, expelled the Soviet ambassador and other Soviet diplomats in September 1981, accusing Moscow of inciting sedition in Egypt.

Nearly a decade earlier, Mr. Sadat, assassinated in October, 1981, ordered some 17,000 Soviet military advisers out of Egypt.

"The return of ambassadors to both capitals is a matter which I think will be dealt with at a time both governments deem suitable," Mr. Ali told Al Akbar without elaborating.

## France to maintain nuclear deterrent

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand said Sunday France would continue to maintain an independent nuclear deterrent and rejected Soviet attempts to draw his country into superpower disarmament talks.

In a televised interview from his country home near Soutouls, in south-west France, Mr. Mitterrand said: "To (Soviet leader) Mr. (Yuri) Andropov I can only say listen, discuss what you want with the United States of America, arrange it between yourselves."

Mr. Andropov offered two weeks ago to cut Moscow's medium range missile forces in

Europe to match the number deployed by Britain and France, making it clear the offer would depend on NATO scrapping its planned deployment of 572 Pershing-2 and Cruise weapons by late this year.

"There is no direct relation between the situation of the superpowers and the situation of France," Mr. Mitterrand said in the interview.

He added that U.S.-Soviet disarmament talks due to resume in Geneva this month were not France's business and recalled that France was not part of the military command structure of NATO.

"The negotiations will succeed if the two great powers manage to find a midline point," Mr. Mitterrand said.

France backs the American "zero option", which calls for the scrapping of all Soviet medium-range weapons in return for cancellation of the NATO deployment plan, although officials say this is seen as a starting point for negotiations.

Mr. Mitterrand said France's nuclear force of bombers, land-based and submarine-based missiles was costly but necessary and would be kept above the minimum level required for independent deterrence.

Pravda said Moscow was offering a stage-by-stage reduction that would cut heavy bombers, land-based and submarine-based Intercontinental missiles to 1,800 units on each side. This would be 25 per cent below the level agreed in the 1979 SALT II treaty, which was never ratified but has been observed by both sides.

The Soviet plan would freeze American forward-based nuclear systems (FBS) within range of Soviet territory, which Pravda said had a strategic character for the Soviet Union.

Pravda agreed in 1974 to omit forward-based systems from SALT II, but has since insisted that such weapons as the F-111 bomber must be limited.

## Moscow blames Washington for stalemate at arms talks

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, in its first major statement on strategic arms limitation since starting negotiations with the United States last June, said Sunday that Washington was responsible for a stalemate at the talks by taking a one-sided approach.

An unsigned article in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda spelt out for the first time for Soviet readers Moscow's negotiating position at the Geneva talks.

During talks on strategic arms control in the 1970s the Soviet Union generally preferred to keep

its proposals secret and avoided public polemics with the United States.

The decision to go public during the present talks with the Reagan administration appears to reflect growing awareness in Moscow of the importance of winning over public opinion in the United States and Western Europe.

At the parallel Geneva talks on limiting medium-range nuclear arms, the Soviet negotiating position has been backed up by a vigorous propaganda campaign aimed at the Western public and

this approach is likely to be followed as far as the strategic arms talks are concerned.

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## PNC to meet in Algiers on Feb. 14

PARIS (R) — Palestinian commando leader Yasser Arafat has announced that the next meeting of the Palestine National Council, or parliament-in-exile, will begin on February 14 in Algiers, the Algerian News Agency APS said. Mr. Arafat attended celebrations at Tebessa, near the Tunisian border, Saturday to mark the 18th anniversary of the start of the Palestinian armed struggle.

41.888

## Badran, Sharif Zaid return from U.S.

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mu'ad Badran and the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt. Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker returned to Amman Sunday at the end of a visit to the United States.

Mr. Badran and Sharif Zaid were members of a delegation led by His Majesty King Hussein for talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan and other senior American officials.

Upon their return, they were met by cabinet members, army Chief of Staff, Fathi Abu Taleb and high ranking army officers.

## Arafat says PLO will continue military action

CAIRO (R) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat was quoted Sunday as saying the PLO will continue the "loud politics" of military action against Israel while also supporting bids for Middle East peace.

He told the Egyptian political weekly Rose Al Youssef: "We did not and will not abandon the military option. We consider fighting to be loud politics."

Interviewed in Tunis, the new PLO headquarters site following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last summer, Mr. Arafat said:

"We support every constructive aspect in any offered initiative."

On President Reagan's peace plan, he said he was aware the U.S. administration did not intend to apply pressure on Israel to make it more flexible towards the plan.

The proposals called for Palestinian self-government in the West Bank and Gaza in association with Jordan. Israel has rejected the plan.

During the past three months, Mr. Arafat said, PLO commandos carried out 361 military operations against Israeli troops in southern Lebanon, causing the death or injury of 340 of them.

In remarks aimed at the Arab states, Mr. Arafat said: "Dropping the military option could only result in collapse and surrender."

He criticised the U.S. for not using what he called the great opportunity during last summer's war in Lebanon to destroy "the legend of Israel's military might".

"Eight Israeli divisions were involved in the fighting, but not a single Arab bullet was fired," Mr. Arafat said.

## Falklands inquiry ends

LONDON (R) — A high-powered inquiry into why Britain was caught off guard by Argentina's capture of the Falkland Islands is complete and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is studying its conclusions, the government said Sunday.

The South Atlantic colony was retaken in June after a 10-week conflict, but the crisis rocked the government and the inquiry was set up to establish if British ministers or officials had been negligent.

The prime minister's office said Mrs. Thatcher, who gave evidence to the six-man committee, was as much of it as possible to be released.

The inquiry, chaired by former diplomat and banker Lord Franks, investigated charges that the government ignored warnings that Argentina was preparing an attack and left the islands virtually defenceless.

The inquiry team was regarded as very high-powered.

## Unknown gunmen allegedly behead white Zimbabwean

HARARE (R) — A 74-year-old white Zimbabwean farmer was beheaded by his kidnappers shortly after being abducted with his grandson by anti-government rebels, police said Sunday.

First reports of the death Saturday of Benjie Williams said he had been shot at and his 24-year-old grandson David Bilang were force-marched through the bush in the troubled province of Matabeleland.

But a police spokesman at regional headquarters at Nyamandlovu told reporters that the rebels had cut off his head with an axe.

A government statement Sunday said that Mr. Williams, who held joint British-Zimbabwean citizenship, had been bayoneted to death. It added that his body was then buried by his kidnappers in a small hill only six kilometres from the scene of the abduction on Friday at Trough Numb mine north of Bulawayo.

There was still no news on the fate of Mr. Bilang despite an intensive air and ground search by security forces.

The kidnappers had made Mr. Williams and his grandson leave notes saying they were being taken hostage to force Prime Minister Robert Mugabe's government to return farms confiscated from the opposition ZAPU Party of Joshua Nkomo.

## Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI)

7% on saving accounts

Malhas: Total 40 people either infected or under observation

## Health minister asserts diphtheria under control

**AMMAN (Petra)** — A total of 40 people are either infected by diphtheria or under observation, Health Minister Zuhair Malhas announced here Saturday and said that investigations reveal that those affected had not previously obtained any anti-diphtheria vaccination which had given most Jordanians almost 90 per cent immunity against the disease.

Addressing a press conference, Dr. Malhas said that all staff members at hospitals, household members, schools and other institutions where diphtheria cases are reported will be inoculated.

### Iraq donates anti-diphtheria vaccine

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Iraqi Health Minister Hamid Alloush left for Riyadh Sunday at the end of a two-day visit to Jordan.

During the visit, Dr. Alloush presented the Health Ministry with a big quantity of vaccines against diphtheria as a gift from the Iraqi Health Ministry.

While in Riyadh, Dr. Alloush will attend meetings of health ministers of Arab Gulf countries as well as of the executive council of Arab health ministers. The Iraqi minister was seen off at the airport by Health Minister Zuhair Malhas, senior Health Minister officials and Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Ibrahim Shuja' Sultan.

The JMC has recently conducted tests for 148 newly-graduated doctors with 24 specializations.

The JMC, headed by the health minister, is made up of the pre-

sident of the Jordanian Medical Association, the director of the Armed Forces Royal Medical Services, the dean of the University of Jordan's Faculty of Medicine and a doctor from the public sector.

Dr. Malhas also reviewed services offered to the public by Al Bashir Hospital in Amman and current programmes for improving them.

The hospital has recently been equipped with a special laboratory with up-to-date equipment and apparatus for handling up to 22 premature-born babies, the minister said.

He also announced that an Arab catering company is now under a two-year JD 2,059 million contract for supplying the hospital with food and for conducting cleaning and maintenance services.

As to the national health scheme, Dr. Malhas said that its regulations have been amended several times with the purpose of allowing more sections of the public the opportunity to benefit from medical treatment.

Those benefiting from the health scheme have to pay an average two per cent of their salaries to cover the medical services, he said. According to the minister, a special draft law on the establishment of a national health corporation has been drawn up making it compulsory for all people to be covered under the scheme.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the Zarqa Health Department said Saturday that no diphtheria cases had been reported in Zarqa Governorate and health teams are standing by to handle all emergency cases.



Health Minister Zuhair Malhas holds a press conference Saturday to announce measures taken against the spread of diphtheria in the country (Petra photo)

### Sharif calls for Christian-Muslim dialogue

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Kamel Al Sharif has called for a dialogue between world Christian and Muslim leaders with a view to further deepening understanding between the two faiths.

Speaking Saturday at a meeting with a visiting delegation representing various religious denominations in the United States, Mr. Sharif said

that Islam does not condone violence or fanaticism but supports dialogue advocates dialogue to promote understanding.

During the meeting, Mr. Sharif spoke about the Awqaf ministry's activities and programmes and also about the conditions of holy places and Arab inhabitants under Israeli occupation.

### AWSA plans to boost water supply

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The Amman Water and Sewerage Authority (AWSA) will soon start building 17 water towers in Amman and its suburbs as part of a programme to supply all districts with sufficient drinking water, according to Al Ra'i newspaper Sunday.

Sufficient funds have been allocated for the project and necessary plans are drawn up, Al Ra'i quoted an AWSA spokesman as saying.

### UNRWA, ministry sign agreement to build new school in Sweileh

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) will construct a school at Sweileh west of Amman, under an agreement signed with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs.

A report in Al Ra'i newspaper said Sunday that the \$750,000 school will offer education to refugees inhabiting the city. The ministry is offering the land for building the school under a 25-year lease. At the end of this period the preparatory school will be turned over to Sweileh Municipality.

### Ministry approves Jordan-S.Korea society

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — The Ministry of Interior has approved the establishment of a Jordanian-South Korean friendship society, according to Al Ra'i newspaper Sunday.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Digs resume at Umm Al Jimal

**MAFRAQ (Petra)** — Department of Antiquities teams have started their third season of restoration of archaeological sites at Umm Al Jimal near Mafraq. Two previous seasons saw the restoration of all Nabatean and Byzantine sites including a castle of one of the Byzantine rulers and an ancient wall, the department said.

### Committee to help 3 major companies

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The government Saturday ordered the formation of a committee to coordinate programmes among the Jordan Phosphates Mines Company (JPMC), the Arab Potash Company (APC) and the Jordan Fertiliser Industry (JFIC). The committee, to be headed by Royal Scientific Society Deputy Director Fakhreddin Daghstani will be charged with helping the three companies to launch joint industrial projects and will help them in marketing their products and training and recruiting technical personnel.

### JVA to supply artesian water to Irbid

**IRBID (Petra)** — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has decided to exploit artesian wells at Wadi Al Arab region to supply the city of Irbid with drinking water. Altogether, four wells are to be exploited and nearly 20 million cubic metres of water are to be pumped annually to Irbid, a JVA spokesman said Saturday. The project, the spokesman said, also entails the construction of a water tank that would store up to 110,000 cubic metres of water in the city and the laying of pipes and other necessary works pertaining to the project. Work on the project is expected to start this month, the spokesman added.

### University offers higher courses in Arabic

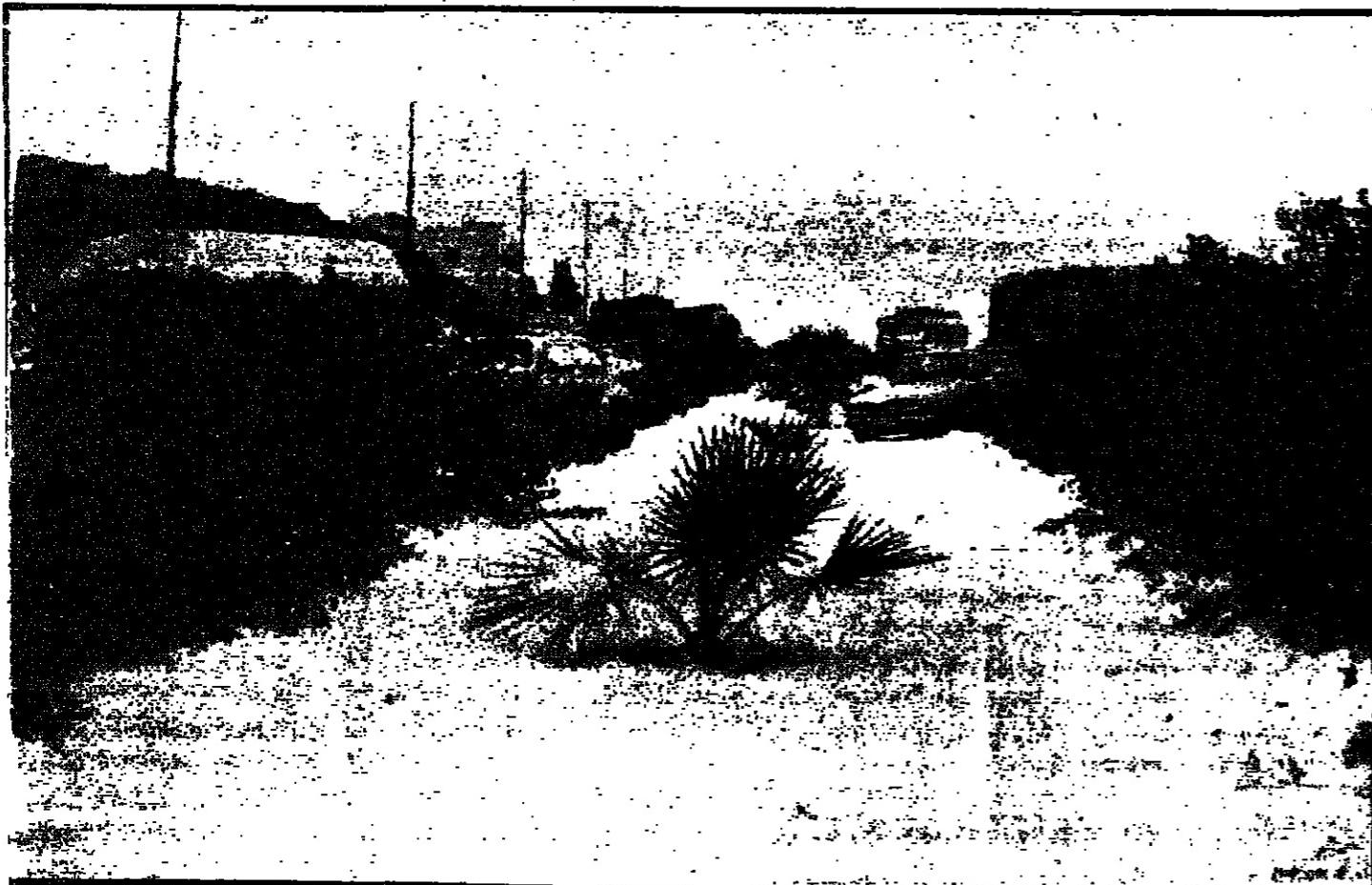
**AMMAN (Petra)** — The University of Jordan has opened the door for post-graduates to obtain doctorate degrees in Arabic language and literature, according to a spokesman for the university's council of deans. The spokesman said that the language courses are expected to start in the second half of the current academic year. Only six candidates will be allowed to take courses this year and the university hopes to increase the number of seats in the coming year, the spokesman said.

### 40,000 saplings planted west of Zarqa

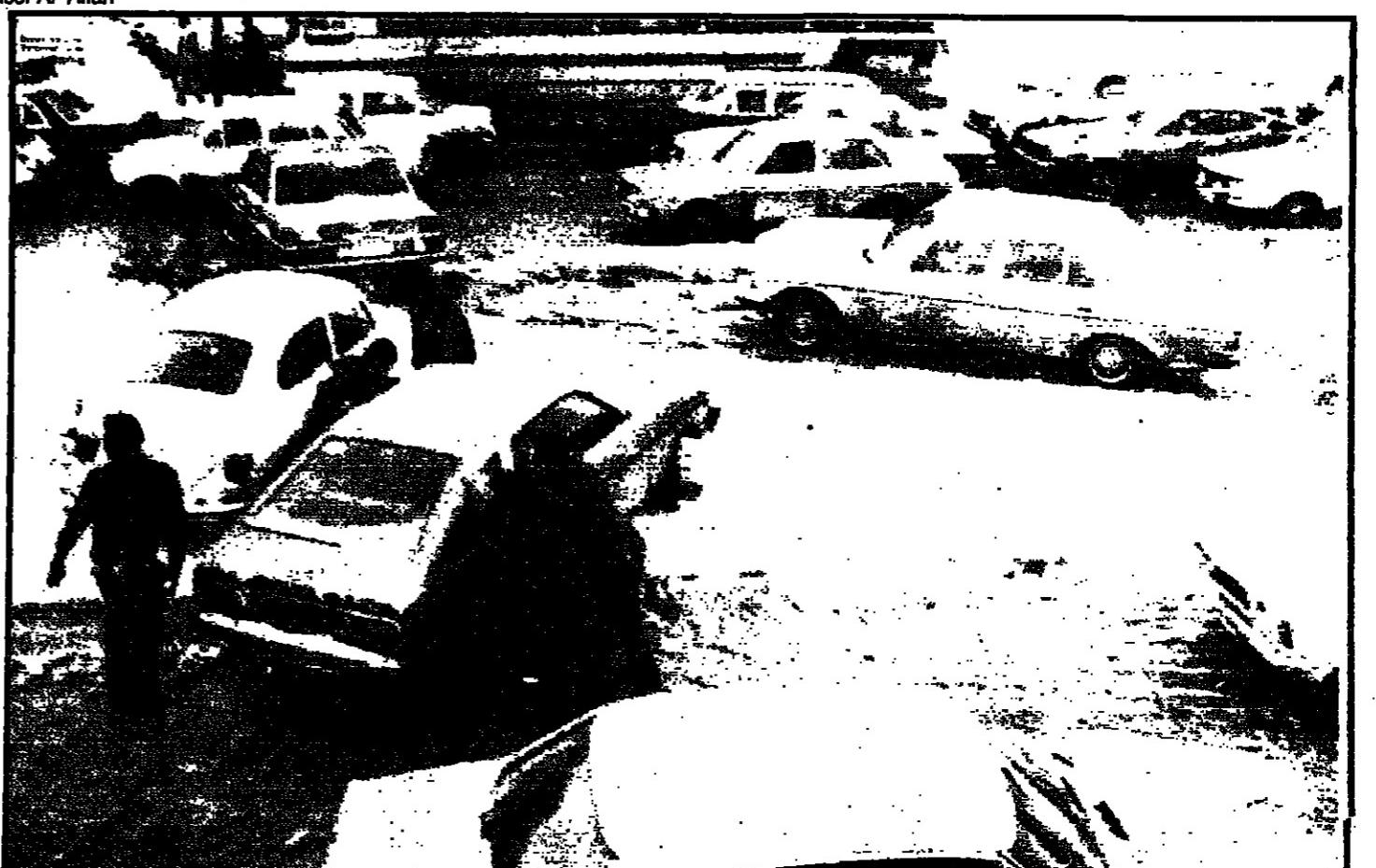
**ZARQA (Petra)** — The Agricultural Department here says 40,000 forest saplings have been planted in and around Al Birein west of Zarqa. The department is now preparing saplings of fruit-bearing trees to be distributed to farmers cultivating rain-fed regions, a spokesman for the department said.

Altogether, 15,000 saplings of olive and vine trees will be distributed in the first stage.

## New Year blizzard wrecks havoc in Amman streets



Photos by Yousef Al 'Allan



Jan 3, 1982

By Ronald Ferguson

VIENNA (R) — Warsaw Pact leaders gathering in Prague for a summit session this week are expected to urge the West to respond more positively to offers of nuclear missile cuts in Europe by new Soviet leader Yuri Andropov.

Party, government and military heads of the seven-nation Communist alliance are likely to issue the call when formally endorsing a recent proposal by Mr. Andropov to reduce Soviet medium-range missiles in Europe to the same level as those of Britain and France combined; Western analysts said.

The two-day session of the pact's policy-making body, the

# Warsaw Pact summit to follow up Andropov's line

political consultative committee, is being held in strict privacy with minimum exposure to Western news media.

Mr. Andropov is heading the Soviet delegation. He and the leaders of Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Romania will be accompanied by their prime ministers, defence ministers and foreign ministers.

Even the precise dates had not been officially announced by Sunday. Diplomatic sources in Prague said foreign ministers were expected to meet Monday and the summit would take place on Tues-

day and Wednesday.

Andropov's proposed missile cuts on agenda

Czechoslovak officials said there would be no facilities for newsmen at the summit. Journalists without permanent accreditation in Prague have been refused visas to come to Czechoslovakia to supplement the small resident foreign press corps.

Mr. Andropov's trip to Prague is his first journey abroad since succeeding to the Kremlin's top job, and the meeting is the Eastern bloc's first formal summit since May 1980. It was originally

scheduled for last month, but was postponed because of President Leonid Brezhnev's death in November.

Although it has received scant advance publicity in East Europe, there have been indications that the session is likely to echo the themes of a Kremlin speech by Mr. Andropov two weeks ago, particularly his proposals for missile cuts.

Mr. Andropov stressed Moscow's interest in arms control, but said the Soviet Union would never allow its security or that of its allies to be jeopardised.

Prime Minister Lubomir

Strougal of Czechoslovak, the host country, said in a recent speech that the Prague meeting would undoubtedly further enhance the alliance's "strategic peace line."

The Czechoslovak Communist Party's official newspaper Rude Pravo followed this up by saying that Mr. Andropov's initiative on missiles would be discussed and that the summit was expected to produce proposals for improving the international situation.

Editorials in the Hungarian party newspaper Nepszabadsag have praised Mr. Andropov's offer as evidence that the Kremlin

is ready to reach agreement on the European missile issue on the basis of mutual concessions.

The

Budapest daily said initial negative NATO reactions should not be regarded as definitive and it called on the West to discuss the Soviet move seriously.

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Initial Western reaction ranged from scepticism to outright rejection by the United States, Britain

and France. But the United States, which has been holding out for a ban on all U.S. and Soviet medium-range systems, subsequently disclosed it had asked for clarification of certain points in Mr. Andropov's speech.

Some Western politicians said

they saw hints of flexibility in the Kremlin's Europe-based medium-range nuclear missiles to the combined level of British and French weapons, meaning a cut from around 600 missiles to about 160.

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# Jordan Times

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## 1983 is important

If the storm on January 1 is anything to go by, 1983 looks set to be a decisive year for Jordan. In the balance, there is the proposal for confederation or a federation with the West Bank and Gaza which could reshape fundamentally the geopolitical and social status of the Kingdom.

This year may not be the one in which the new tie with a Palestinian state or a homeland can be forged and formalised. It is expected, however, that events in 1983 will determine, to a large extent, much of the area's future.

For now, the Jordanian government and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leadership are agreed on the principle of, and the need to, tie the two peoples' future together. In a series of top-level talks and discussions in Amman towards the end of last year, Jordan and the PLO also decided to pursue unity through joint political moves aimed at an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, within the context of existing Arab, American and other plans for peace in the Middle East.

In all probability, and out of mutual beliefs and common interests, the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue will continue throughout 1983 and may well be intensified to reach a point from which there is no return. This will be of absolute necessity for three important reasons:

First, the present Israeli government's equal enmity towards Jordanians and Palestinians, the Jordanian government and the PLO

leadership. Second, the Reagan administration's avowed commitment to its peace plan based on a homeland for the Palestinians in association with Jordan. Third, and most important, the common desire by Jordan and the PLO to recover the occupied territories as soon as possible for a price they would like to pay if it is unity with identity.

Whether the Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, even the developing of one negotiating position, can lead to a peaceful settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict is a question that is difficult to answer at this stage. His Majesty King Hussein's talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Washington in late December seem to have produced brighter prospects for 1983 to be a year of peace. But, as is well known, the obstacle to greater progress has all along been Israel's outright rejection of compromise on the West Bank and Gaza. And unless the Begin government falls within months, or else made to considerably soften its extremist attitudes and drop its expansionist plans for the Arab territories, there will hardly be reason for optimism.

As far as Jordan and the PLO are concerned, the ball now is in the U.S. court. Washington can either opt to use its influence with the Israelis and get them to understand the reality of the situation and the fragility of their military power or else see an historic opportunity of extreme Arab flexibility slip away and go with the wind.

Out of this dark situation, the opportunity for peace arose

## DE FACTONOMICS

### Hopes for 1983

We welcome 1983 with optimism. We also have great expectation for the new year, since nothing can be worse than 1982. It was the case for our region if not for the whole world.

I am inclined to judge economic and political developments in our region by whatever turn the Middle East conflict may take. In 1982, Israeli intransigence reached its climax by the invasion of Lebanon, the destruction of the Palestinian community there, the disperse of the PLO infrastructure, the intensification of Israeli colonies in the occupied areas, the demolishing of Arab educational and other institutions in the West Bank and Gaza, and the behaviour as the regional power in West Asia. To all of these hostile manifestations, the Likud government added its inhuman touch by masterminding the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

Out of this dark situation, the opportunity for peace arose

with Reagan's initiative and the Arab Fez plan for peaceful settlement.

With preparations and contacts amongst the major parties concerned now coming to a conclusion, concrete steps must be taken in the coming months. Our hopes for peace in the Middle East are going to be tested in 1983. We are ready to utilise every chance to regain our occupied areas. This position should, however, ultimately be based on American effectiveness and Israel's reciprocal demonstration of its desire to reach a just peace.

The Lebanese-Israeli talks will serve as an excellent test of both the American effectiveness and the Israeli attitude. I hope that Israeli withdrawal from all Lebanese territory will take place promptly and without ties that would make the Lebanese position one of surrender rather than a result of independent decision-making.

The Israelis, however, will probably try to waste time and

exert pressure for a final peaceful settlement which may split the Arab World further. The Lebanese should therefore be firm and step up their resistance to make occupation costly.

The Americans should not just be happy for having got the two parties together. They should not just sit and wait for the ending. Their effectiveness in bringing a quick and acceptable Israeli move will directly influence the Arab perspective of the American capability to act on Reagan's initiative.

A freeze on Israeli colonisation is not only a matter of prestige for the Americans, but also an indication of an Israeli peaceful approach. Jordan's security concerns and need for financial aid are other two factors that should be met satisfactorily.

If no concrete move is taken from now till June towards an acceptable peaceful settlement, things will turn in a different direction. I am afraid that the teen-agers of Sabra

and Shatila will start looking for revenge even against the will of their leaders. The Palestinian problem will not be one for the police, but may threaten the stability of the whole region. This trend will strengthen fundamentalism and will make it difficult for the only country which reached peace with Israel, namely Egypt, to remain silent. In other words, the American policy in the Middle East will be deadlocked.

In the meantime, we all hope that our economic and social development will continue in momentum in 1983. We should be pragmatic in recognising new difficulties that may emerge and respond quietly and effectively. Some economic problems will come to the surface such as excess capacity in our industries and hotels, marketing limitations, negative repercussions of the entirely liberal import policy, labour relations and employment, the management of new large industries, and the cre-

dibility of our regional planning and development.

I hope that the Iran-Iraq war will come to an end with Arab rights preserved. Arms purchases can be substituted with equipments and machinery necessary for development projects. Pressures on the region's infrastructure can be eased and more improvements may be introduced.

I also hope that the gap between Syrian words and deeds will narrow rather than widen. Its constructive role can help the region considerably in facing its problems.

I have hopes regarding many areas, and have only mentioned a few. Finally, I look forward to a year of better growth and less unemployment in the world economy. I also hope that the foreign debt problem of the Third World countries will not slip into a worldwide banking crisis and bankruptcies. I, together with others, look at 1983 with optimism and we hope that our wishes will come true.

## Reforms aim at democracy in Bangladesh

By Bernard Melnitsky  
*Reuters*

DACCA—Bangladesh's military ruler, Hossain Mohammad Ershad, has launched major reforms designed to pull his impoverished country out of the vicious circle of faltering democracy and army coups.

Lieutenant-General Ershad, who seized power in a bloodless coup last March, says the reforms setting up elected councils in rural areas are revolutionary and will lead to restoration of democracy.

But frustrated major political parties whose activities are banned are clamouring for an immediate end to the martial law he imposed

and an early return to parliamentary democracy.

General Ershad, 52, a soldier by training and poet by inclination, wrote in a verse read recently to officials being trained to help run the rural-based councils: "I invite you to fulfil the dream of the oppressed nation." Politicians would probably argue that a similar invitation should be sent to their parties, but General Ershad seems in no hurry to bring political parties into his concept of "a real people's democracy."

He told Reuters that after a series of elections on a non-party basis at local and district level beginning next year, he foresees national elections with political parties taking part some time in 1984. His administrative changes involve giving some 470 *thanas*—police station areas each consisting of about 140 villages—a chance to elect councils with wide powers to handle local matters ranging from law and order and education to development projects.

Each council will be assisted by senior civil servants who will advise on projects but have no voting powers in the council. Local Government Minister Mahbubur Rahman, the only civilian in General Ershad's administration, told Reuters that the *thanas* and areas below that level had been neglected during the past decade. Too much power was centralised and the people were kept away from

their representatives and the government. "Democracy should be allowed to grow from the grass roots," he said.

### Power base

Some political opponents of the martial law government say the scheme will cost too much and is partly aimed at building up a rural power base for General Ershad. "Military rulers always come up with fancy and expensive schemes to beguile people into accepting their style of democracy," one opponent said.

General Ershad said he had not yet made up his mind whether to enter politics before the projected national election, saying: "I am a simple soldier." But he made clear that he believed the armed forces had to have some role in future governments. Government sources said the exact political and military role of the armed forces might come in the form of amendments to the suspended constitution although nothing precise had yet been decided.

They said an institutional framework involving the military could effectively check the danger of army coups, which have haunted the sad and brutal history of Bangladesh since it won independence from Pakistan by war in 1971. The military first seized power after Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the first president, was assassinated and his Awami League government toppled in a coup in 1975.

After a series of coups and counter-coups, General Ziaur Rahman emerged as military

leader and president. He formed his own political party and held elections without giving the military a constitutional role but was assassinated in an abortive army mutiny in May 1981.

General Ershad, the army chief of staff, took power 10 months later, ousting an elected civilian government of General Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party. He alleged there had been widespread corruption and that democracy had failed to solve the country's problems. In a national broadcast this month, General Ershad said the armed forces had taken power reluctantly to save the country from ruin. His government had inherited a shattered economy, social and political instability, a bad law and order situation and above all rampant corruption.

The government had declared jihad (holy war) against corruption, he said. Some former ministers had been convicted and several officials removed from service. Listing administrative, judicial, educational and other reforms, General Ershad said: "We can claim that what we could achieve in eight months could not be done in the past decade."

Some major political parties do not agree. The Awami League, reputed still to be the best organised in Bangladesh, called for an immediate end to martial law and said: "The country is passing through a critical economic situation which must be cured before

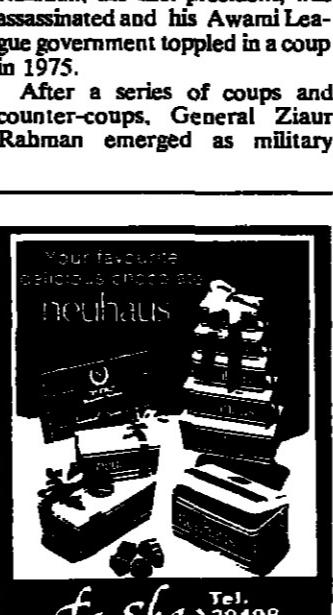
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Date of term: Jan. 8 - March 23.  
 Timings of classes: Afternoons and evenings. Ladies classes in the mornings.

Fee: JD 29.

Testing and registration will take place from Jan. 3 - Jan. 6 at the following times:  
 Testing: 9.00 - 11.00 a.m., 3.00 - 5.00 p.m.  
 Registration: 9.00 - 12.00 a.m., 3.30 - 5.30 p.m.

A fee of JD 0.50 will be charged for testing.

The British Council  
 Rainbow Street, off. First Circle  
 Tel. 36147/8

### ARABIC CLASSES

The British Council announces the commencement of the new term on Jan. 8, 1983. Classes will be offered at three levels.

Dates of term: Jan. 8 - March 23.  
 Timing of classes: Mornings.  
 Fee: JD 29.

Registration will take place from Jan. 3 - Jan. 6, 1983 from 9.00 - 12.00 a.m. and 3.30 - 5.30 p.m.

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## POLLUTION AND THE ENVIRONMENT

# Co-operation needed to protect endangered coast

In the second of two articles on pollution in the Gulf of Aqaba (see *Jordan Times*, Dec. 1, 1982) environment correspondent Mustafa M. Salma looks at three more coastal industrial developments and suggests how government and industry can work together to minimise the environmental dangers.

The Jordan Timber Processing Co. (JPTC) plant, now under construction, is located in the north-western part of Wadi 2, just north of the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Co. complex. The plant is designed to process around 120,000 tonnes a year imported wood and it consists of the following units: sawmill; chip-board plant, plywood plant, and furniture factory. A waterline pond (150 m x 85 m) for storing the incoming lumber will be excavated just beneath the surface.

In principle, no liquid waste will be discharged into the Gulf waters. However, all pollutants in the form of dust are to be expected from woodworking and sulphur oxides and smoke from the combustion of heavy fuel oil. There will also be organic compounds such as urea formaldehyde adhesive, used for making plywood, phenol formaldehyde resin for making chipboard, and paint and varnishes for making furniture.

The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) new thermal power plant will also be located in Wadi 2 and will be constructed in two stages. The first stage is expected to be completed in 1986, and consists of two units of 130 MW each. Around 1990, two units of 320 MW each will be added as the second stage. Sea water for cooling will be used at a rate of 36,000 m<sup>3</sup>/hr during the first stage. The temperature rise will not exceed 10°C between sea water intake temperature and outfall.

Bu this will undoubtedly lead to a severe thermal pollution problem even if all measures are taken to achieve a thorough mixing of the returning hot water with the surrounding sea water. According

to the environmental impact report, it has to be assumed that irreversible damage to the marine environment may take place and the corals in the vicinity of the outfall will be destroyed.

Air pollution will be in the form of sulphur dioxide and smoke resulting from fuel oil combustion which has a sulphur content of between three and four per cent.

The Jordan Phosphate Mine Co. (JPMC) loading bay, JPMC's throughput of exported beneficiated phosphate rock is estimated around 3.5 million tonnes/year. This is transported to Aqaba port by train and truck. The greatest source of visible emission is obviously taking place during the loading of ships when fine phosphate rock drops a few metres from the chute into the bunkers of a ship.

Phosphate rock dust will increase the turbidity of the water in the vicinity of loading. Furthermore, phosphate rock contains nutrients, toxic metals, and four per cent fluorine which will also have an adverse effect on the marine life there. However, U.K. consultants Rendel, Palmer and Tritton have prepared a tender to alleviate the present situation and reduce dust emission from its various sources:

### Environmental impact

An environmental impact report should form part of the planning procedure for all proposed new plants or plant modification in Jordan. The purpose of evaluating environmental impact is threefold. First, it forces the industrial firm to consider all the probable environmental impacts of its proposed building and production activities, and the various alternatives which can minimise

unavoidable adverse impacts on land, water, plants and animals etc.

### Complementary efforts

Effective control of industry's pollutants can only be achieved through the complementary efforts of government and industry. Neither can do it alone. Most

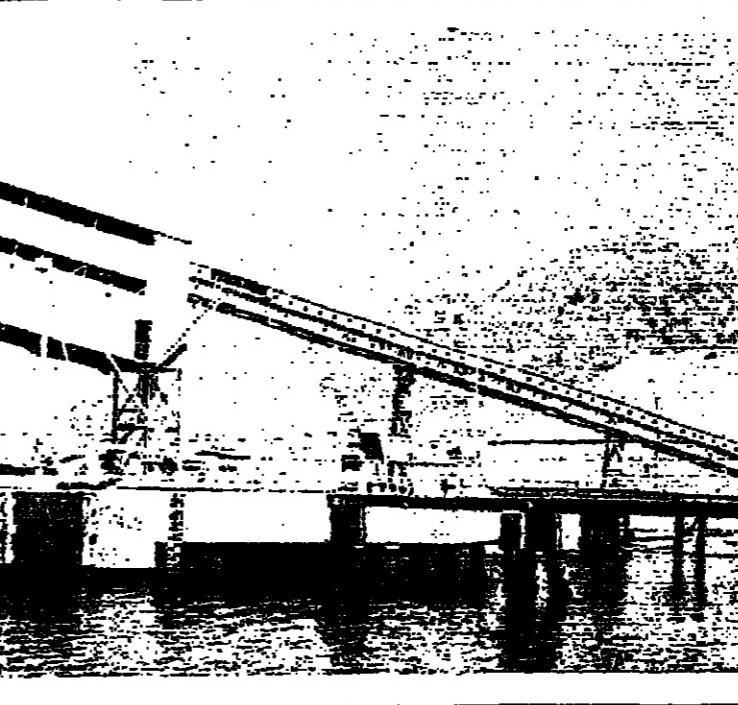
responsible for the environment. However, these institutions have not translated official concern into effective environmental management programme. This can be attributed to several factors mainly:

(1) Financial and manpower deficiencies and other pressures have hindered institutional

improvements.

(2) Increased pressure to develop

economically will further increase the drive toward industrialisation at the expense of the environment.



The phosphate loading bay has a throughput of 3.5 million tonnes a year.

most companies do not want to damage the environment, but industry's primary function is to provide a product and sell it at a profit, and there are few cost-free solutions to environmental pollution.

(3) Inadequate professional and technical support.

(4) Lack of experience.

(5) Lack of university-level courses designed to train young graduates.

(6) Lack of good qualified management.

(7) Inadequate legislation.

### Endangered ecosystem

The coral reefs and their marine ecosystem are the major form of life in the Gulf of Aqaba, and serve also to prevent erosion of the coast itself. Coral reefs are particularly sensitive to three forms of pollution: thermal changes, chemical pollution, and

sedimentation, all of which will be discharged to the Gulf water.

It has been said that those who do not learn from history are doomed to repeat it. For present purposes, selecting the south coast of Aqaba for industrialisation was not a wise decision, and it seems the water pollution problems of the King Talal dam are about to be repeated on a much larger scale. Therefore, we have to understand three things: firstly, industry's capacity to pollute the Gulf has been and will be increasing rapidly. Secondly, industrial growth without effective control may lead to irreversible damage to marine life, and thirdly, large supplies of natural resources will eventually be used up.

The existing monitoring capabilities in Jordan are not sufficient to determine the extent and level extent and level of toxic substances and other pollutants

within the immediate environment of the Gulf waters. In the absence of monitoring and surveillance, the government should place the responsibility of monitoring industrial discharge and air pollutants on the owners of industrial plants located in the coastal zone of Aqaba. The owner should install, calibrate, maintain, and operate monitoring instruments to measure all forms of air and water pollutants emitted from his plant.

Furthermore, the owner should be ordered to maintain a file of all required measurements, to be summarised monthly. The records of such measurements and summaries should be retained for at least two years. All records shall be submitted to appropriate government officials on demand, and violators should be subjected to criminal indictments and penalties, if found guilty.

## Pay or progress?

By Tareq Masriwah  
Al Falah

The sheer size of the 1983 national budget of nearly JD 800 million really arouses one's interest and amazement, and rekindles memories of the past years of JD 30- to JD 40-million budgets.

In the old days of modest budgets, Jordanians looked with hope to the implementation of such projects as Aqaba port, the East Ghor Canal, the Amman-Aqaba desert highway and the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company. These were not only deemed essential projects for the country's development, but were also a source of satisfaction and pride to everyone, since they were given priority in the view of Jordan's needs, and launched with very limited resources.

At that time, employees in both the public and private sectors clung on hard to their jobs, well aware that job opportunities were limited. A government office, where I worked in those days had only one account. Several years later the number had grown to 14 though the volume of work has not increased proportionately.

I am not really tackling the draft budget itself, nor the government's administrative system, but offering a humble comment which occurred to me as I looked at the budget proposals. Indeed I couldn't help observing that in some departments, funds earmarked for employees' salaries have outgrown those allocated for the department's projects.

The Ministry of Culture and Youth, for instance, which does not offer direct services to the public, will spend more on salaries than on the actual cultural work assigned to it. The same applies to the Youth Welfare Organisation, where funds allocated for sports and youth activities fall far below those allocated to salaries. Such departments are not concerned with creating culture, arts and sports but their work is rather to organise and sponsor such activities with a view to expanding and spreading them throughout the country. This, of course, requires adequate funds.

My views should by no means be taken as a call to reduce employees' salaries, but rather one for increasing these departments' budgets. In my view, a project can succeed if no more than 15 per cent of its overall cost is spent on management. This can also be applied to other government departments where management has been continuously and unjustifiably inflated. Such inflation does not serve the real interests of the country, the civil service or government functioning in general.

## Egypt boasts new Pharaonic tomb

By Hanan Hendawi  
Reuter

**VALLEY OF THE KINGS, EGYPT**—This vast royal graveyard on the west bank of the Nile has a new attraction to offer tourists—the newly opened tomb of one of ancient Egypt's great rulers, Pharaoh Ramses III.

Half a million tourists a year visit the Valley, close to the ancient southern city of Luxor, but the effects of war in neighbouring Lebanon have cut Egypt's tourist revenues this year by 25 per cent.

The new tomb commemorates the Pharaoh who saved Egypt from sea raiders more than 3,000 years ago. "The name of Ramses III is certain to ring positive bells in the minds of potential tourists," said the manager of a Luxor hotel.

The 125-metre chamber cut into solid rock was first discovered by explorer James Bruce in 1769, but after a brief glimpse he moved on, leaving it closed for two centuries.

The walls of the 10-chamber tomb of Ramses III are decorated with scenes from his life, telling of his greatness in saving Egypt from the Sea People, a conglomeration of migrating peoples from central Europe and the Mediterranean islands.

Weapons occupy a prominent position in the pictures, and

according to one Egyptologist "they reflect Ramses' great concern with increasing his country's military might to face the advanced metal arms of the Sea People."

The Sea People were driven from their homes by a severe drought and crossed the Mediterranean areas now known as Libya and Sinai.

Ramses led his forces in a major naval battle off the coast of Egypt which halted the advance of the Sea People and ended their threat to the country.

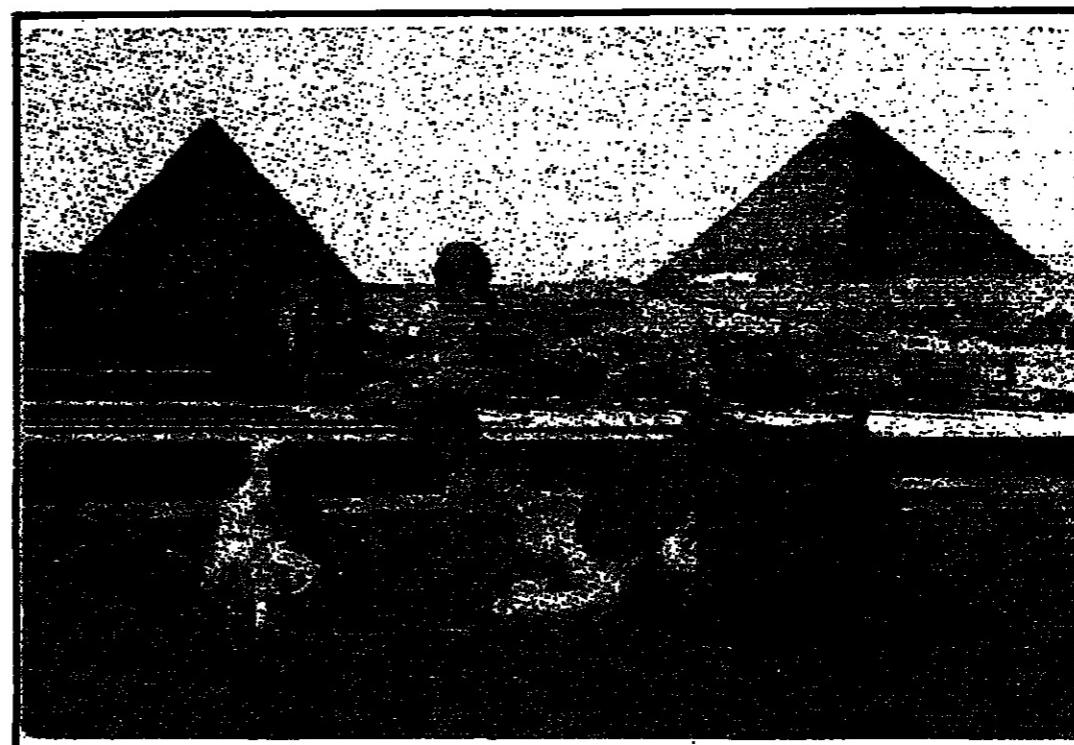
The tomb of Ramses III also has classic examples of Egyptian funerary art. A hymn praising the god Ra is inscribed on both sides of the corridor to the tomb, and there are scenes showing the god offering gifts, and kneeling figures of Maat, the goddess of truth, sheltering those who enter the tomb with her wings.

Like all other tombs in the Valley, with the exception of that of Tutankhamun, the tomb of Ramses III has been looted of its precious contents by the grave robbers who plagued the area in ancient times.

"The world should be thankful to the huge rocks that fell on the gate of Tutankhamun's tomb, saving the treasures of the young Pharaoh from the hands of the plunderers for people to see many centuries later," an antiquities official commented.

Local officials are hopeful that the new tomb will lure more sightseers to the area and go some small way towards reducing the damage done to the tourist industry by the war in Lebanon.

The manager of Luxor's Winter Palace hotel, Baher Sobhy Abdel-Malek, said that with the cost of package tours from Europe and the United States ranging from \$1,600 to 3,000, many tourists must have been put off by the fighting.



Egypt's world-famous tourist industry has been flagging since the war in Lebanon.

## TV & RADIO

### JORDAN TELEVISION

#### MAIN CHANNEL

17:30 ..... Koran  
17:30 ..... Cartoons  
18:10 ..... Children's Programme  
18:30 ..... Sport  
18:45 ..... Muppet Show  
19:20 ..... Programmes Preview  
20:00 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic Series  
21:40 ..... Local Programme  
22:10 ..... Arabic Varieties  
22:10 ..... News in Arabic

18:00 ..... French Programmes  
19:00 ..... News in French  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
21:00 ..... Comedy: The Other Art  
21:30 ..... One Hundred Great Paintings  
21:30 ..... Documentary  
22:10 ..... News in English  
22:15 ..... The Agatha Christie Hour

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07:10 ..... Morning Show  
10:00 ..... News Summary  
10:05 ..... Morning Show  
12:00 ..... News Summary  
12:05 ..... Pop Session  
13:00 ..... News Summary  
13:45 ..... Pop Session  
14:00 ..... News Bulletin  
14:30 ..... Instruments  
15:00 ..... Picnic Time  
16:00 ..... Concert Hour  
16:05 ..... News Summary  
16:05 ..... Instruments, Old Favourites  
16:10 ..... First Spin  
16:45 ..... News Summary  
18:30 ..... Animal, Vegetable, Mineral  
19:00 ..... Newsdesk  
19:30 ..... Daybreak 06:00 The Breakfast Show  
17:00 News Roundup: Reports, Actualities, News Summary 17:30 VOA Magazine Show: Americans, Science, Letters! 18:00 Special English News 18:10 Special English Science and Technology Report 18:15 Feature: This is America 18:30 Music USA: Standards 19:00 News Roundup 19:30 Dateline 20:00 Special English News 20:10 Science and Technology 20:15 This is America 20:30 Music USA: Standards 21:00 News Roundup 21:30 VOA Magazine Show

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

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\* Video film of The Scarlet Letter (Part II), at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m.

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American Centre ..... Tel. 41520  
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Goethe Institute ..... 41993  
Soviet Cultural Centre ..... 44649  
Spanish Cultural Centre ..... 36049  
Turkish Cultural Centre ..... 36777  
Hays Youth Centre ..... 667181  
Y.W.C.A. ..... 41793  
Y.W.M.A. ..... 664251  
Amman Municipal Library ..... 36111  
University of Jordan Library ..... 84355

#### MUSEUMS

Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.  
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Tel. 202-203. Open 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muzayzen, Jabal Luweibeh. Opening hours 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Sundays. Tel. 37169.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

### SERVICE CLUBS

#### ARRIVALS

06:45 ..... Cairo (EA)  
06:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
06:45 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
06:45 ..... Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
06:45 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
06:45 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
06:45 ..... Cairo (EA)  
06:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)

#### DEPARTURES

06:45 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
06:45 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Aqaba (RJ)  
07:00 ..... Beirut, Paris (AF)  
07:00 ..... Cairo (EA)  
08:45 ..... Beirut (MEA)  
11:00 ..... Vienna, New York (RJ)  
11:15 ..... Tripoli, Madrid (RJ)  
11:30 ..... Athens (GF)  
12:00 ..... Park, London (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Geneva, Frankfurt (RJ)  
12:15 ..... Istanbul, Bucharest (RJ)  
12:30 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
16:45 ..... Maghrib (RJ)  
16:45 ..... Isha (RJ)

### PRAYER TIMES

#### AMMAN AIRPORT

#### FOR THE TRAVELLER

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### EMERGENCIES

Ambulance ..... 193, 75111

Fire, flood, police ..... 199

Blood bank ..... 75121

Civil Defence rescue ..... 661111

Fire headquarters ..... 125990-3

Police rescue ..... 192, 21111, 37777

Police headquarters ..... 39141

Traffic police ..... 56301-1

Electric Power Co. ..... 56381-2